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Week of July 29, 1974

BRENNAN NAMES 4 BLACKS TO FEDERAL COMMITTEE ON APPRENTICESHIP

WASHINGTON -- Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan has announced the appointment of four blacks to a reactivated Federal Committee on Apprenticeship. This is the first time in its 40-year history that the committee has had minority group members.

E. Frank Saffell, 51, International Vice President, Operative Plasterers' and Cement Mason's International Association of the U.S. and Canada, AFL-CIO, was named as one of 10 labor representatives on the board.

William E. Jenkins, 52, of the Jenkins Electric Co., Brooklyn, N.Y., was named one of the 10 management representatives. Ernest G. Green, 32, Executive Director, Recruitment and Training Programs, Inc., of New York City, and Miss Dorothy I. Height, 61, National President of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., of Washington, D.C., were named as two of the five public representatives.

The Federal Committee on Apprenticeship, and advisory group to the Secretary of Labor, was established by executive order in March, 1934 and continued by the National Apprenticeship Act of 1937. It has been inactive for more than four years.

In reactivating the committee, Secretary Brennan expressed great pleasure in the caliber of the people who have agreed to serve without pay on this committee.

"I believe that a new apprenticeship strategy is required," he said. "It is going to be the job of this committee to give the system new life, new vigor, new direction," he said.

(MORE)

Matters on which the committee may advise the Secretary include:

-- Programs to expand both apprenticeship and journeyman training in all sectors of the labor force;

-- Programs to promote equal opportunity in apprenticeship;

-- Standards to protect the welfare and assure high equality training of apprentices;

-- Cooperation with state apprenticeship agencies; and

-- Research and development to test new approaches to apprenticeship and skills training.

The Federal Committee on Apprenticeship is one of the oldest advisory committees in the Federal Government. It was created by President Franklin Roosevelt in March 1934. Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins appointed the first committee, consisting of four Federal executives. The committee was enlarged in 1935 with representatives from labor and management. It was called the Federal Committee on Apprenticeship Training until the National Apprenticeship Act of 1937 was passed and the present name adopted.

Two labor and one management representative are yet to be named to complete one 25-member panel.

# # #

Week of July 29, 1974

BLACK LABOR DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE CITES NEED TO
EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR BLACKS, OTHER MINORITIES

WASHINGTON -- "Self-confidence and independence are essential to success in life."

So says Clyde Barrett, who recalls his childhood as "a constant fight for identity as a viable human being."

Barrett 32, still remembers the "classic insult" of his childhood:

"At one time, there was only one park in my hometown that blacks could go to and this park had one distinguishing feature; there was a garbage dump located in the midst of it."

Even as a child, Barrett resented discrimination, but he says that those conditions resulting from it made him try even harder to succeed.

Today Barrett is the executive assistant to Assistant Secretary of Labor for Administration and Management Fred G. Clark.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management (OASA) is the internal management organization for the Department of Labor. OASA provides services of all types for the Labor Department's approximately 12,000 employees and its components.

As executive assistant, Barrett reviews reports and correspondence for Clark and provides recommendations on their subject matter. He also functions as a "troubleshooter" and as a coordinator of activities within OASA and the Department when different viewpoints must be merged in decision making.

Barrett began his federal career as a wage and hour investigator during what he calls "the beginning of the first real effort to hire blacks on professional levels" in the Department of Labor.

(MORE)

Last year, Barrett received the Labor Department's Special Achievement Award for help in eliminating a heavy backlog of congressional correspondence while employed in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Since entering the U.S. Department of Labor, Barrett has changed his ideas about the federal service. "While blacks have achieved a relative measure of success in the federal service, there is a continuing need for broadening opportunities and developing upward mobility for all minorities, including women and Spanish speaking people," he says.

In spite of his successful career, Clyde Barrett refuses to forget his background.

"Most blacks are only one or two generations removed from adverse conditions," he says. "Yet, in our success, we become materialistic and create a counter-culture like the culture we allegedly are fighting against."

Recollections of the Civil Rights Movement and his participation in the sit-ins as a teenager remind the young native of Roanoke, Va., that he is "not far removed from the evils of yesterday."

In all his decisions as executive assistant in the Department of Labor, as well as in his daily life, Clyde Barrett says he strives for fairness.

He advises aspiring young people to have a sense of pride in themselves and to become aware of their surroundings. He emphasizes that today's youth should guard against passive attitudes toward life.

Barrett believes that the pertinent issues facing blacks are now the same ones facing everyone: they are only compounded by discrimination in jobs, housing and education. (MORE)

Convinced that the "days of plenty" will soon be over in this country, Barrett is pessimistic about what lies ahead. He believes that, at some time in the future, "if you are busy trying to survive, there will be no time to be black or white."

# # #

BLACK WOMEN'S STATUS IMPROVED
BY AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS

WASHINGTON -- "Black women's status can and must be improved through affirmative action programs." This was the view expressed by Ms. Carmen R. Maymi, Director of the U.S. Department of Labor's Women's Bureau as she participated in a recent tribute in Washington honoring Mary McLeod Bethune, distinguished educator and humanitarian.

As a member of the keynote panel on economics, Ms. Maymi chose as her topic, "Black Women Workers: Their Economic Status and Opportunities." She stressed the need for all minority women to be aware of career opportunities for the improvement of their economic status, "especially in areas of non-traditional employment."

During the two-day symposia, sponsored by the National Council of Negro Women, Ms. Maymi challenged black women to be aware of their employment rights. Of top priority, she insisted, was the need for "more and better community services relevant to the needs of black women" such as those obtained through apprenticeship and junior and community colleges.

Ms. Maymi cited four major governmental efforts as "effective tools" for women hoping to acquire equal employment opportunities. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which asserts the right to equal employment without regard to race, sex, religion, or national origin; Executive Order 11246, which prohibits discrimination by employers holding Federal contracts and requires affirmative action by those employers to achieve these requirements; the Equal Pay Act, which provides for equal pay for men and women who do work requiring equal skill, effort, and responsibility; and the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) of 1973, which provides a wide array of manpower services to men and women.

(MORE)

In her concluding remarks, Ms. Maymi said that "until black women are able to share equally in rights as well as responsibilities, our national economy will be deprived of the contribution these women can make to their own economic well being and to that of our total society.

# # #

SECRETARY BRENNAN PLEDGES 'EVENHANDED AND FAIR' ENFORCEMENT OF OSHA

WASHINGTON -- Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan, testifying before the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Subcommittee, has pledged evenhanded and fair enforcement of all laws administered by the Department of Labor.

Referring specifically to the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) of 1970, Secretary Brennan strongly asserted that there is only one acceptable approach to the administration of this program. "We must be vigorous in our enforcement of the law and fair to all who are affected by it," he said.

After assuring the subcommittee that "the game is being played square," Brennan reviewed recent department efforts in the field of occupational safety and health. He said that OSHA has nearly doubled the number of inspections from fiscal year 1973 to this past year. A true Federal-State partnership in the field of safety and health has been established, Brennan said. Twenty-five state plans covering almost 60 percent of the Nation's workers have been approved under provisions of the Act. This provides greater protection for the worker than could be achieved under a Federal effort alone.

Brennan also commented on two amendments now before the Congress. He strongly opposed an amendment to the Department's appropriation bill which would have the effect of exempting employers of 25 or fewer employees from Federal enforcement of OSHA. He warned that "an unfair and intolerable situation" could emerge if this amendment were passed and said he would urge a veto of the final appropriation measure if the exemption remains.

An amendment to provide funds for non-enforcement consultation at the worksite to help small businessmen understand the requirements of OSHA was strongly favored by Brennan. Adoption of this amendment "would enable us to take advantage of the states' expertise in providing consultation needed by employers at the worksite," he said.

Brennan concluded his remarks by emphasizing that the development of new job safety and health standards "is both the most basic and the most complex" aspect of OSHA's activities. Citing the need to step-up the process of standards setting, Brennan said he was committed to assuring that OSHA standards are "workable and will farily consider all the interest involved."

By working to insure safer and more healthful workplaces, the Labor Department and Congress would be fulfilling the commitment made when the Occupational Safety and Health Act was passed, he said.

# # #

BRENNAN ANNOUNCES AFFIRMATIVE ACTION
PROGRAM TO PROTECT HANDICAPPED WORKERS

WASHINGTON -- Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan has pledged "fair and effective" administration of the Administration's new program to require that most federal contractors take affirmative action steps to hire handicapped workers.

He made the statement at a meeting for top labor, industry and rehabilitation officials in Washington, D.C. The meeting was held by the Labor Department and the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

"We in the federal government have long made it a policy to hire the physically or mentally handicapped, and we have encouraged private employers to do the same," Brennan declared. "Now we want to do more."

Brennan said the Administration's program under Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 "will greatly expand opportunities" for some 12 million handicapped Americans of working age.

The program affects employers with federal contracts of $2,500 or more.

"I firmly believe that the handicapped deserve a better chance than they have gotten in the past," Brennan told the labor, industry and rehabilitation leaders. "We intend to do everything in our power to make this a fair and effective program."

Brennan said voluntary compliance will be emphasized, but there will be procedures for formal complaints by handicapped workers who are discriminated against by affected federal contractors in hiring, promotion, training, transfer policy, termination, accessibility for jobs, and determination of working conditions. # # #

LABOR DEPARTMENT GIVES BOOST
TO BUSINESSMEN TO HIRE VETERANS

WASHINGTON -- The Labor Department has provided funds to the National Alliance of Businessmen (NAB) to hire 50 jobs-for-veterans managers in 45 large cities.

Assistant Secretary of Labor William H. Kolberg has announced that the new managers, all to be Vietnam-era veterans, will direct the efforts of the NAB in developing job opportunities for jobless veterans.

"I consider this activity highly important to the mutual concern we have in hiring veterans for jobs that suit them and suit the Nation's economy," Kolberg said in his announcement at the closing session of the annual conference of the National Alliance of Businessmen in Washington.

The NAB will recruit the managers under a $750,000 Labor Department contract.

The new managers will work closely with the Labor Department's Veterans Employment Service specialists in job development and placement activities.

The NAB expects to recruit as many disabled veterans as possible for the 50 positions. The 50 will be stationed in NAB offices covering geographic areas that together have more than 75 percent of the Nation's total of jobless veterans.

A training session will be held in Washington, D.C., by the NAB for the new managers on or about September 1, and they will be on the job before the end of that month.

(MORE)

Earlier this year, the NAB incorporated many of the activities of the National Committee of Jobs for Veterans into its veterans program in line with a phase-over plan approved by President Nixon. The NAB's responsibilities under the program now include a monthly veterans report, basic advertising and publicity programs, and the development of veterans job fairs.

# # #

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX--JUNE 1974

WASHINGTON -- The Consumer Price Index rose 1.0 percent in June to 147.1 (1967=100), the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor has reported. The rise was due to higher prices for a wide range of consumer goods and services, notably new and used cars, medical care services, mortgage interest costs, household durables, and fresh fruits. The effect of these increases was partially offset by lower prices for some food items, particularly meats. The June CPI was 11.1 percent higher than a year ago.

On a seasonally-adjusted basis, the rise in the June CPI was also 1.0 percent. This compares with a 1.1 percent rise in May and 0.6 percent in April. The food index increased 0.3 percent after seasonal adjustment in June, following a 0.9 percent rise in May and a 0.4 percent decline in April. The index for nonfood commodities rose 1.3 percent in June, the sixth consecutive month of rapid rise. The services index rose 1.0 percent in June, the same as in the preceding month and more than the average monthly increase in the first 4 months of this year.

For the calendar quarter ended in June, the CPI increased at a seasonally-adjusted annual rate of 10.9 percent, compared with 14.2 percent for the preceding calendar quarter. The rise in the food index--which slowed from a 19.4 percent annual rate in the first quarter to 3.1 percent in the second quarter--was the smallest calendar quarter increase in 2 years. Prices of energy items--gasoline and motor oil, fuel oil and coal, gas, and electricity--rose less rapidly than in the first quarter. However, prices of other nonfood commodities and services rose at a faster rate in the 3 months ended in June than in the first 3 months of this year due to price increases for a wide range of items.

(MORE)

The index for food purchased in grocery stores rose 0.3 percent, slightly more than is usual for June. Fresh fruit prices rose considerably more than they usually do in June, and prices for sugar, nonalcoholic beverages, and partially prepared foods continued to rise rapidly. Prices for cereal and bakery products and processed fruits and vegetables rose at a much slower rate than in recent months. Fresh vegetable prices averaged unchanged, following a large increase in May. Prices of dairy products declined for the first time this year. Meat and poultry prices declined instead of rising as they usually do in June. Egg prices also declined but not as much as is usual for June. The index for food away from home restaurant meals and snacks--increased 1.0 percent, about the same as in recent months.

The index for nonfood commodities rose 1.4 percent, considerably more than is usual for June. The used car index advanced sharply for the third consecutive month. New car prices, which usually decline as the model year progresses, continued to increase, reflecting higher manufacturers' prices and transportation charges. Prices for reading materials and appliances rose more than in recent months. Prices for other household durables, housekeeping supplies, toilet goods, gasoline, and fuel oil continued to rise. Prices for apparel commodities, which usually decline in June, also increased.

The services index increased 1.0 percent in June. Charges for medical care services rose substantially for the second consecutive month. Physicians' fees and hospital charges for semi-private rooms and operating rooms rose sharply. Charges for most household services were higher in

(MORE)

June, particularly home maintenance and repair services and mortgage interest costs. Among transportation services, there were large increases in taxi, railroad, and airplane fares, but local transit fares and auto insurance rates declined.

# # #

Dear Consumer

Saving Dough on Bread

By Virginia Knauer
Special Assistant to the President and Director
Office of Consumer Affairs
Department of Health, Education and Welfare

Bread is on everyone's shopping list.

But too many shoppers simply grab the first loaf that comes to hand at the bread counter.

There's a better way: Read labels and experiment with different breads. According to Agriculture Department's Extension Service, we should be getting our money's worth from bread three ways—for nutrition, flavor and price.

● Read labels, first, for nutrition. Compare the ingredients in various kinds of bread. Compare the nutritional values, too. This is becoming easier as more and more brands of bread carry nutrition labels to tell how much protein and other nutrients are in each serving.

Bread can be an economical source of protein. According to Agriculture nutritionists, whole grain breads —whole wheat, rye, pumpernickel—are generally the best source of protein although they may cost more.

However, if white bread is enriched, it can be a good nutritional buy for your family. Even though white bread may have less protein, the enrichment process puts back the vitamins and minerals taken out by the milling process.

● Try different flavors. Bread manufacturers have produced a wide variety of specialty breads, including those which add raisins, cheese, nuts or seeds to the basic ingredients. However, each extra ingredient brings up the cost of the bread.

● Read labels and experiment, finally, to save money. Agriculture specialists make these suggestions:

1. Compare bread prices by first determining the weight. Although some loaves of bread look larger than others, they may still weigh the same.

2. Buy basics if your budget is tight. The basic ingredients in all breads are flour, shortening and milk. Extras like fruit or seeds and techniques like swirling can add to the price.

3. Be wary of breads with special claims. According to Agriculture officials, the only significant difference between "diet" bread and regular bread is that "diet" bread is sliced thinner. However, pound for pound, you may pay more for "diet" bread.

4. Buy day-old bread. Many bakery outlets and supermarkets have day-old bread for as little as half the original price. Before buying, check the condition of the wrapper. Unless it is properly sealed, the bread may have begun to mold.

5. Stock up during special sales. Bread stays fresh indefinitely in your freezer.

6. Consider buying store brands which usually are less expensive than national brands.

For more information on how to use bread in your family meals, you may order **Bread, Cakes and Pies in Family Meals** (Publication No. G-186) from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. for 35¢.

FILLERS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

According to the U.S.Department of Labor, underpayments of over $18 million to 29,618 workers, nearly all of them women, were found during the fiscal year 1973.

# # #

As a result of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, almost 40,000 job opportunities were provided for older workers during the fiscal year 1973, says the Labor Department.

# # #

The U.S. Department of Labor reports that over five million employees were covered by Federal workmen's compensation laws in fiscal 1973.

# # #

Bureau of Labor Statistics studies reveal that approximately one out of eight working men and women suffers some disabling injury each year.

# # #

During fiscal 1973, the Department of Labor International Technical Assistance Corps initiated technical aid projects in 28 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin and Central America, the Caribbean, and the Near East.